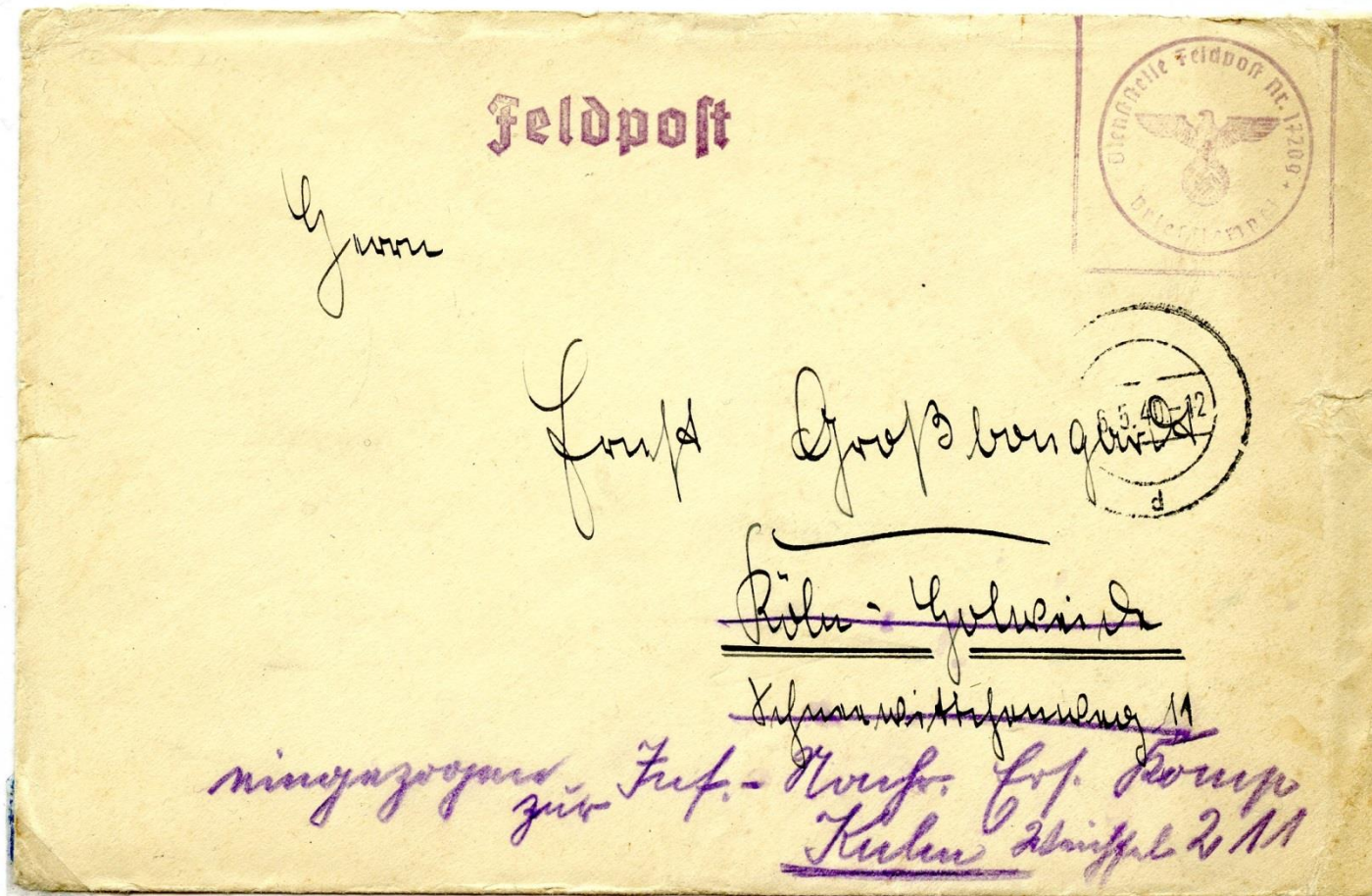


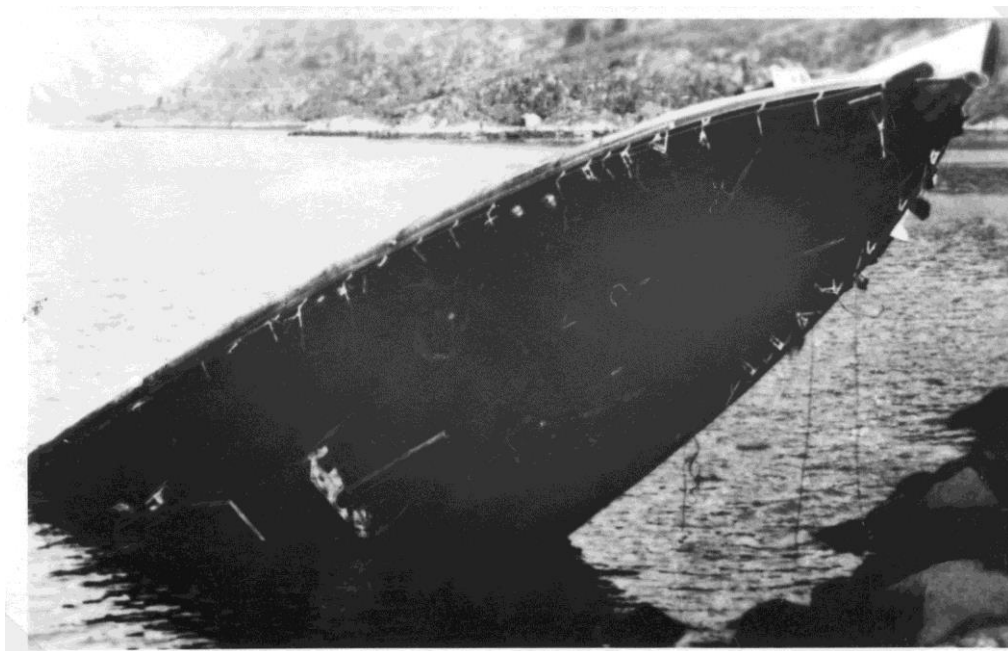
Heavy cruiser, 18,500 long tons, 8x8" guns

At the time of this item (May 1940), the Admiral Hipper was in dry dock at Wilhelmshaven undergoing repairs of action damage sustained by collision with the British destroyer HMS Glowworm during the invasion of Norway.





**FP Nr 07330:** From the destroyer *Georg Thiele*, eight days before she was sunk at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Narvik.



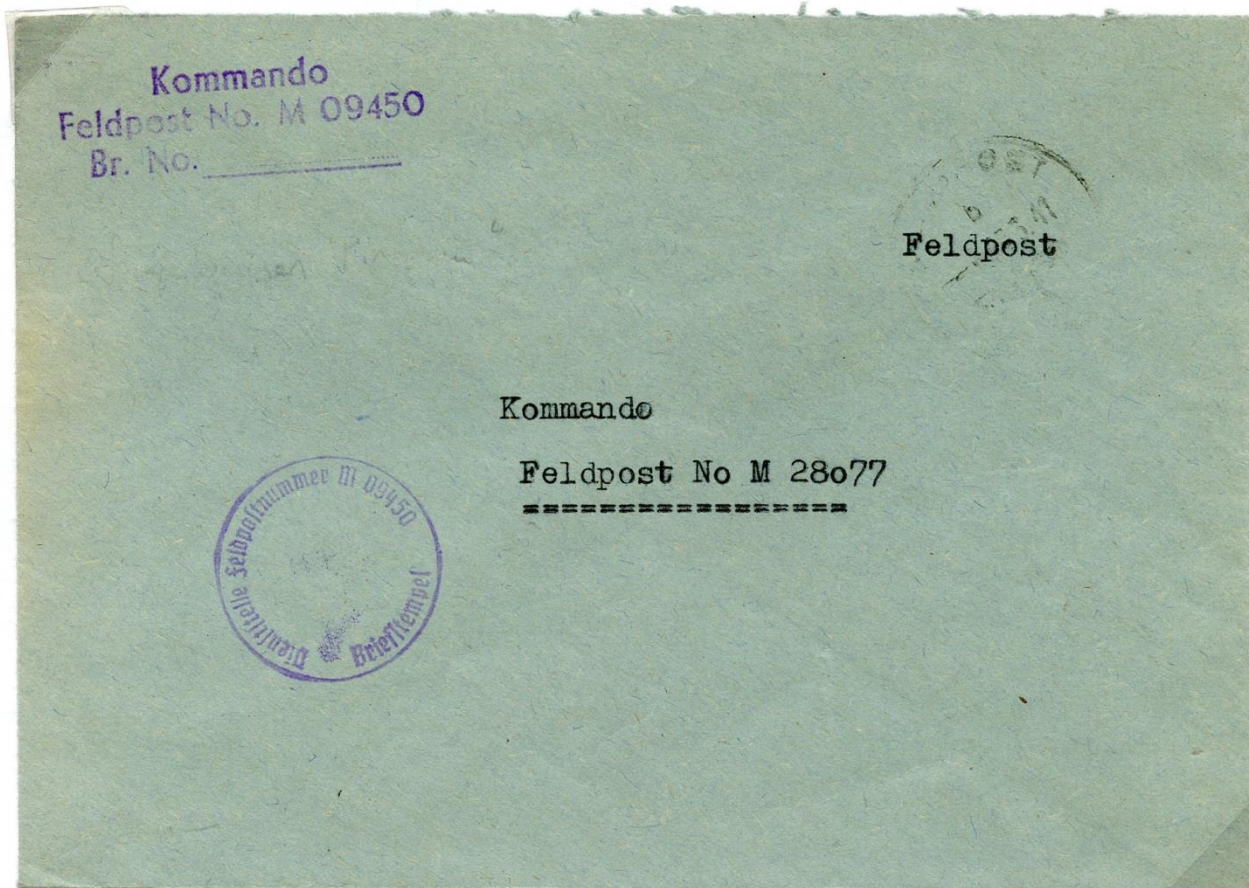
Thought to be a photo of the *Georg Thiele* after the Royal Navy had finished with her.



## Commerce Raider 'Penguin': FP Nr 09450.

**Penguin** was a German auxiliary cruiser (*Hilfskreuzer*) which served as a commerce raider in World War II. *Penguin* was known to the Kriegsmarine as **Schiff 33**. She was the most successful commerce raider of the war. She left Germany on June 15<sup>th</sup> 1940. Evasive routing through Norwegian waters enabled her to enter the North Atlantic via the Denmark Strait on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

How did mail from her get back to Germany? The website [http://www.warcovers.dk/greenland/info\\_schiff33.htm](http://www.warcovers.dk/greenland/info_schiff33.htm) documents two opportunities, the first in July 1940 via the submarine *U-A*, which *Penguin* re-supplied. The second was in September 1940 via the captured Norwegian freighter '*Nordvard*', which was sent back to Europe, arriving Bordeaux 22nd November. The item below is dated March 1941.

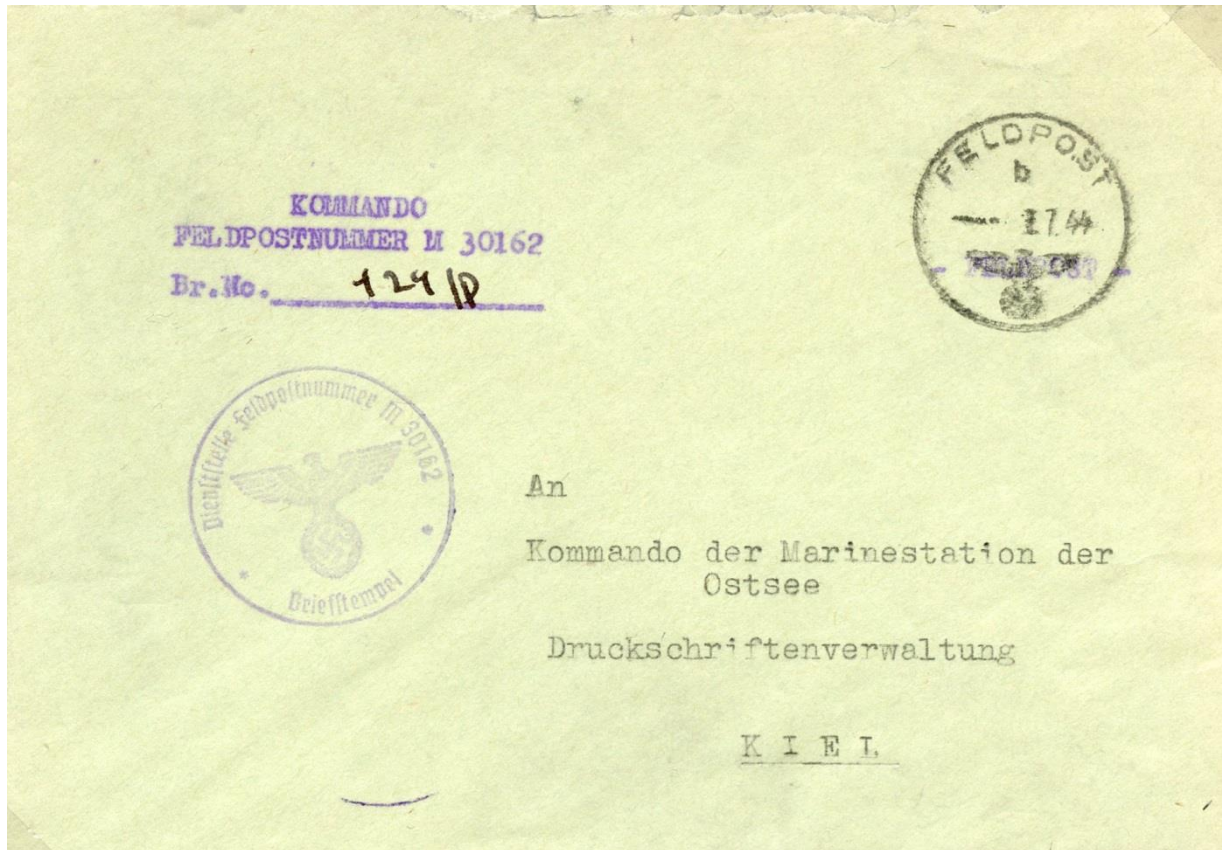


Schiff 33 Penguin as Greek ship M/S "Kassos" - 18th July 1940



## FP Nr M30162: Tirpitz

Sister ship to *Bismark*, *Tirpitz* had been badly damaged by mini-submarines in September of 1943 while anchored behind considerable defences in Altenfjord, northern Norway. She was ready for action again in the spring of 1944 and on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, a carrier-based plane attack was launched. The first strike had complete surprise and the ship was badly damaged. 122 crew were killed and 316 were injured. The attack disabled the *Tirpitz* for three months.





On September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1944, Tirpitz was attacked by Lancaster bombers. One bomb hit her and peeled back her deck. She was no longer seaworthy and she was sent to be anchored off of Haakoy Island, three miles from Tromsø where she would operate as a floating fortress. On November 12th, she was attacked by 29 Lancasters. 'Blockbuster' bombs did considerable damage. Her magazines exploded and she rolled over trapping over 1000 men in her as she turned turtle. A few – 80 men – managed to get to the bottom of the hull where a hole was cut and they escaped.

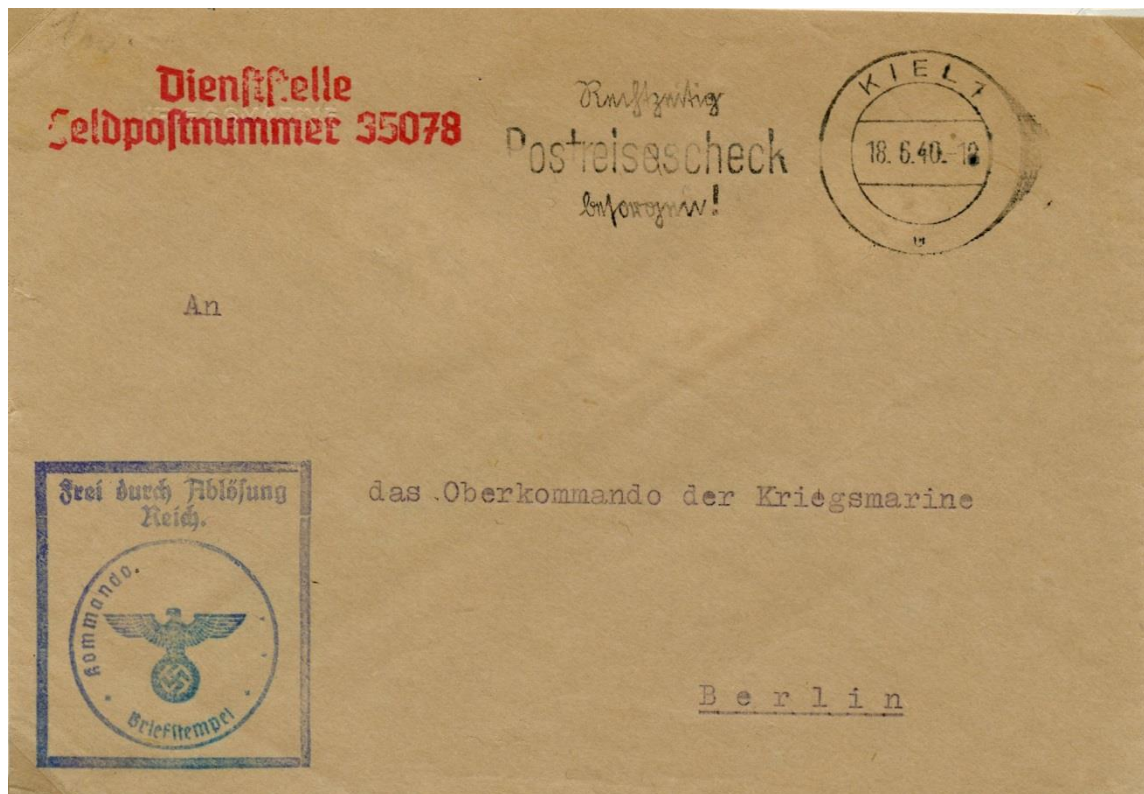


The wreck of the *Tirpitz* being dismantled at Sørbotn off Håkøy near Tromsø, Norway, 1947-1949



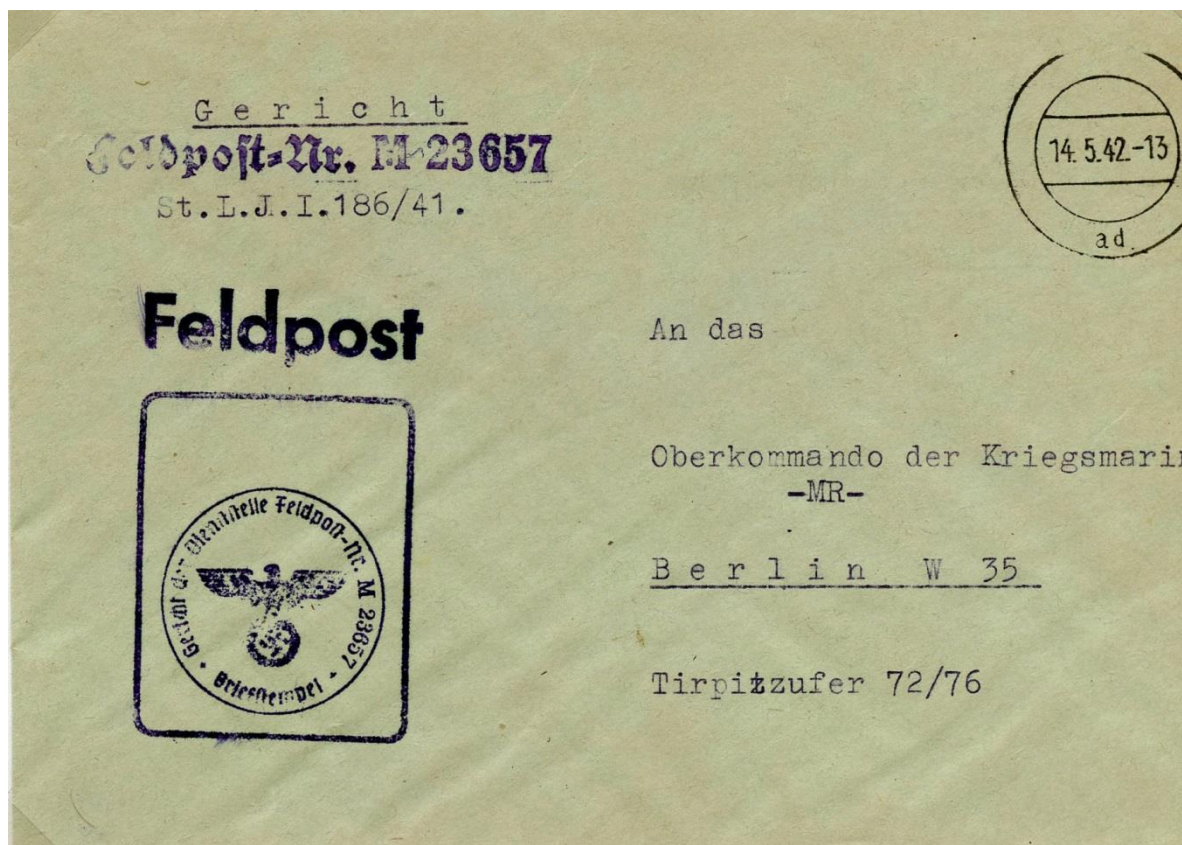
### FP Nr 35078: Lutzow

This pocket battleship had been badly damaged in the Norwegian campaign when she was torpedoed by HM s/m *Spearfish*. She was not fit for sea again until June 1941.



### FP Nr 23657: Scharnhorst

After the Channel Dash of February 1942, she was repaired at Gotenhafen before proceeding to Altenfjord in N. Norway in March 1943. She was sunk by HMS Duke of York and accompanying warships off North Cape on Boxing Day 1943.



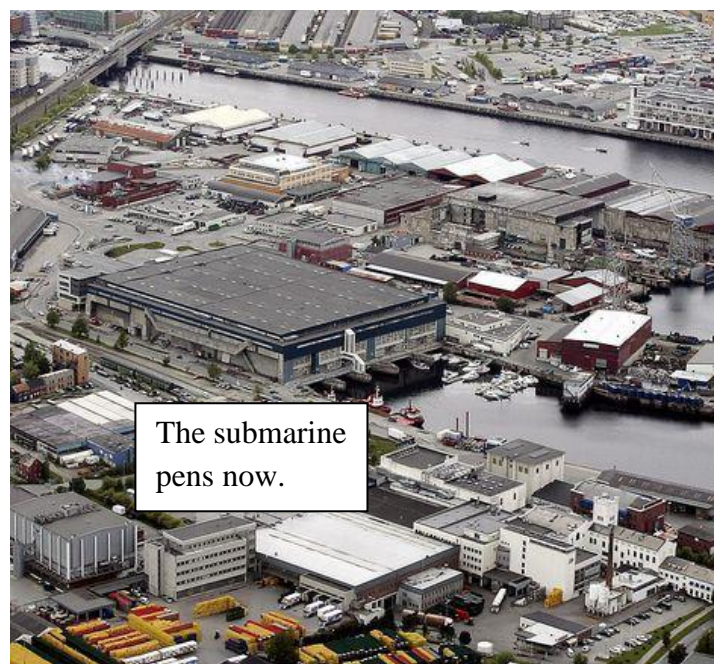


## Kriegsmarine in Norway: FP Nr 40499

This FP Nr is attributed to the 13<sup>th</sup> U Boat Flotilla in Trondheim. It is addressed to 2 UAA (Unterseeboots Ausbildung Abteilung) at Neustadt (Holstein) one of three U Boat training and holding establishments in the U\_Boat command. 1 UAA was at Plon and 3 at Pillau.



Dora Sub pens during WWII



The submarine pens now.



**FP Nos 17053 and M10159:** Kriegsmarine in Norway

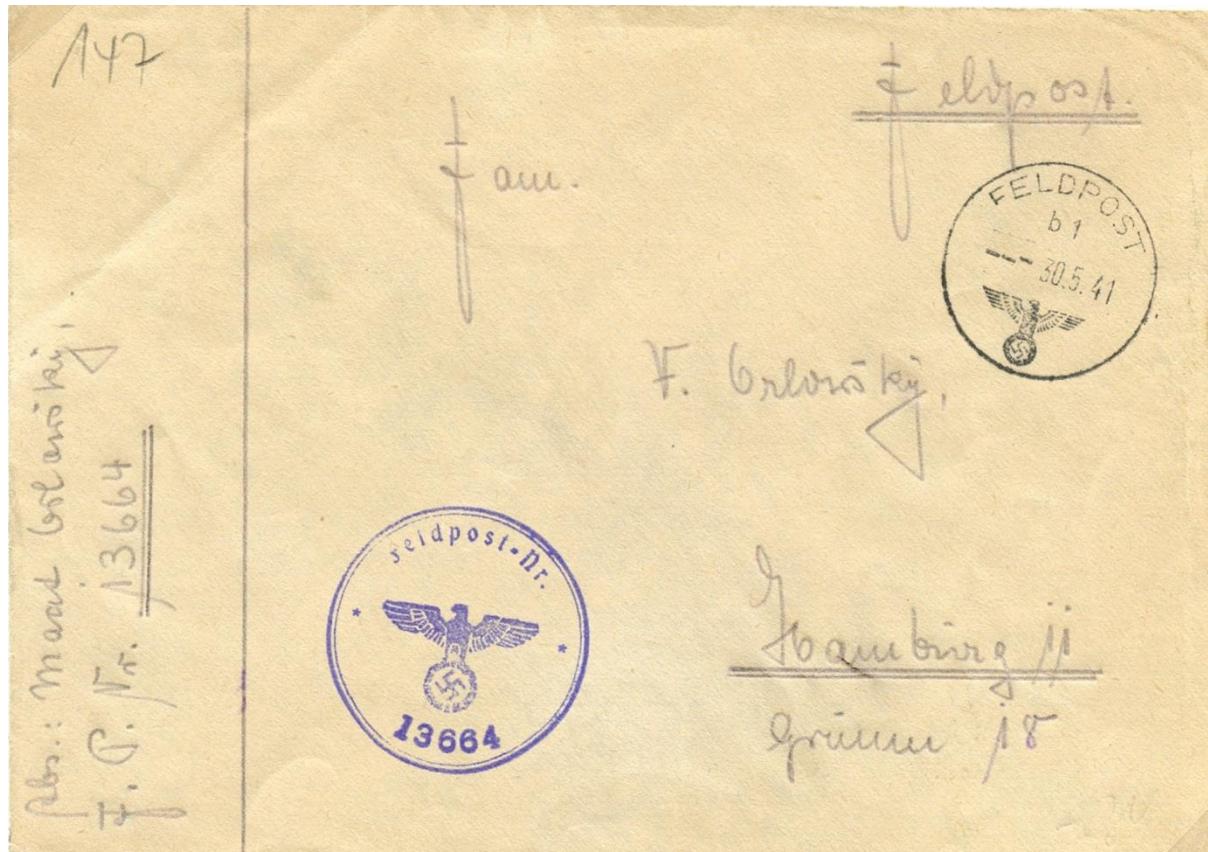
This was initially posted from Siedenbollentin, a small village in E Germany, ca.50 kms from Polish border, and 40 kms south of Baltic coast. It was initially addressed to FP Nr M17053. This is attributed to Marine-Artillerie-Abteilung 504, which, by January 1945 consisted of 12 batteries at coastal locations in SW Norway, based on Bergen. From there it has been redirected to FP Nr M10159. This is attributed to Stab u.l.u. 2. Kompanie Marine-Stammabteilung Norwegen. This was subordinate to the Seekommandant Oslo, then to the SeekommandantOslofjord.





**Kriegsmarine in Norway:** Marine-Artillerie-Abteilung 502, FP Nr 13664

The naval artillery battery Kristiansand was set up after the occupation of Norway in Kristiansand and expanded in June 1940 to the Navy Artillery Division Kristiansand. It reported to the commandant of the sea defense Kristiansand and was renamed in July 1940 to naval artillery department 502. From 1940 the department also had the designation "artillery commander Kristiansand-South".

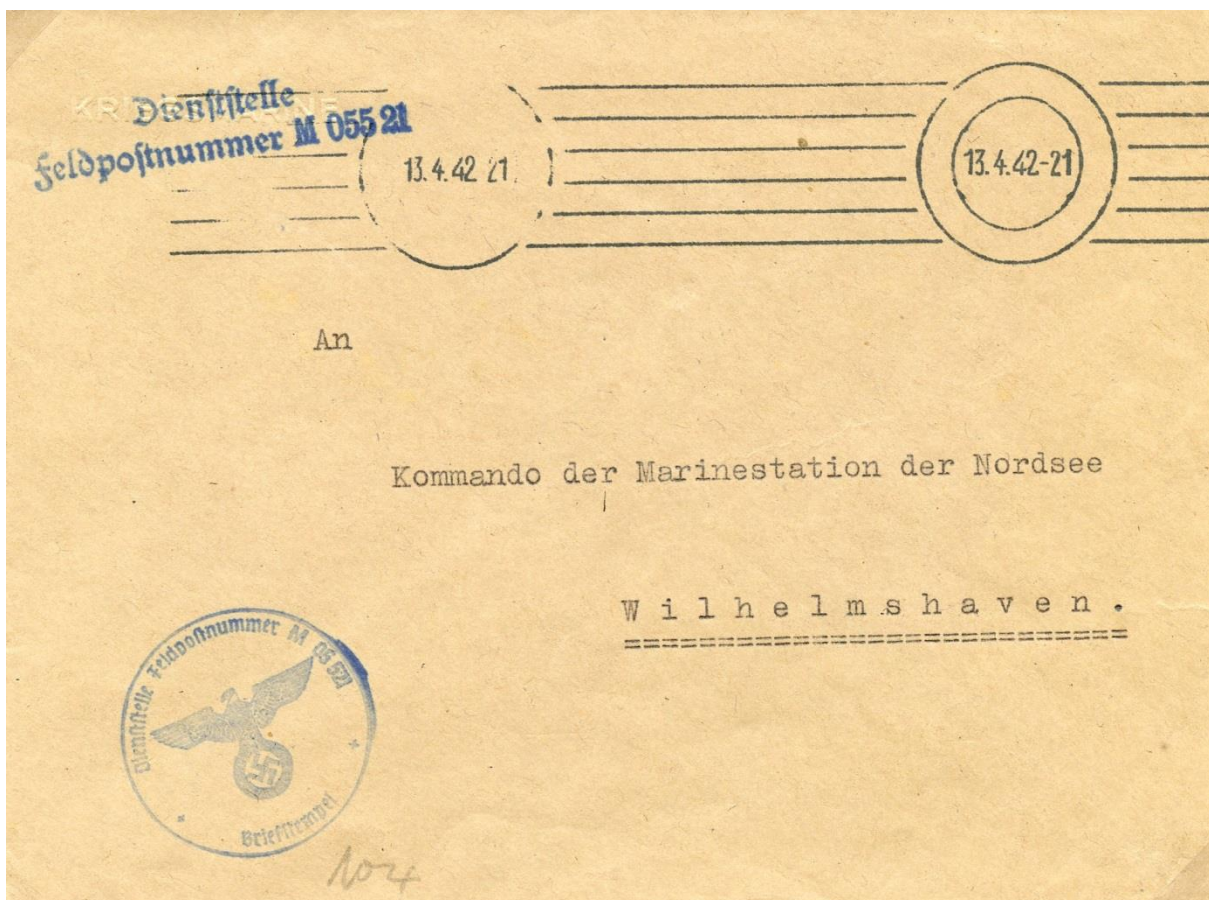


The remains of the Gleodden battery, one of several batteries of MAA 502 protecting the approaches to Kristiansand.



**Kriegsmarine in the Netherlands:** FP Nr M05521

This FP Nr has been attributed to gunboat *K1*. After the invasion of the Netherlands, a batch of three incomplete gunboats was captured. *K1* was one of them. *She* was launched on 23.11.1940 and put into service on 02.10.1941. She was sunk near Aarhus on 05.05.1945 by the RAF.

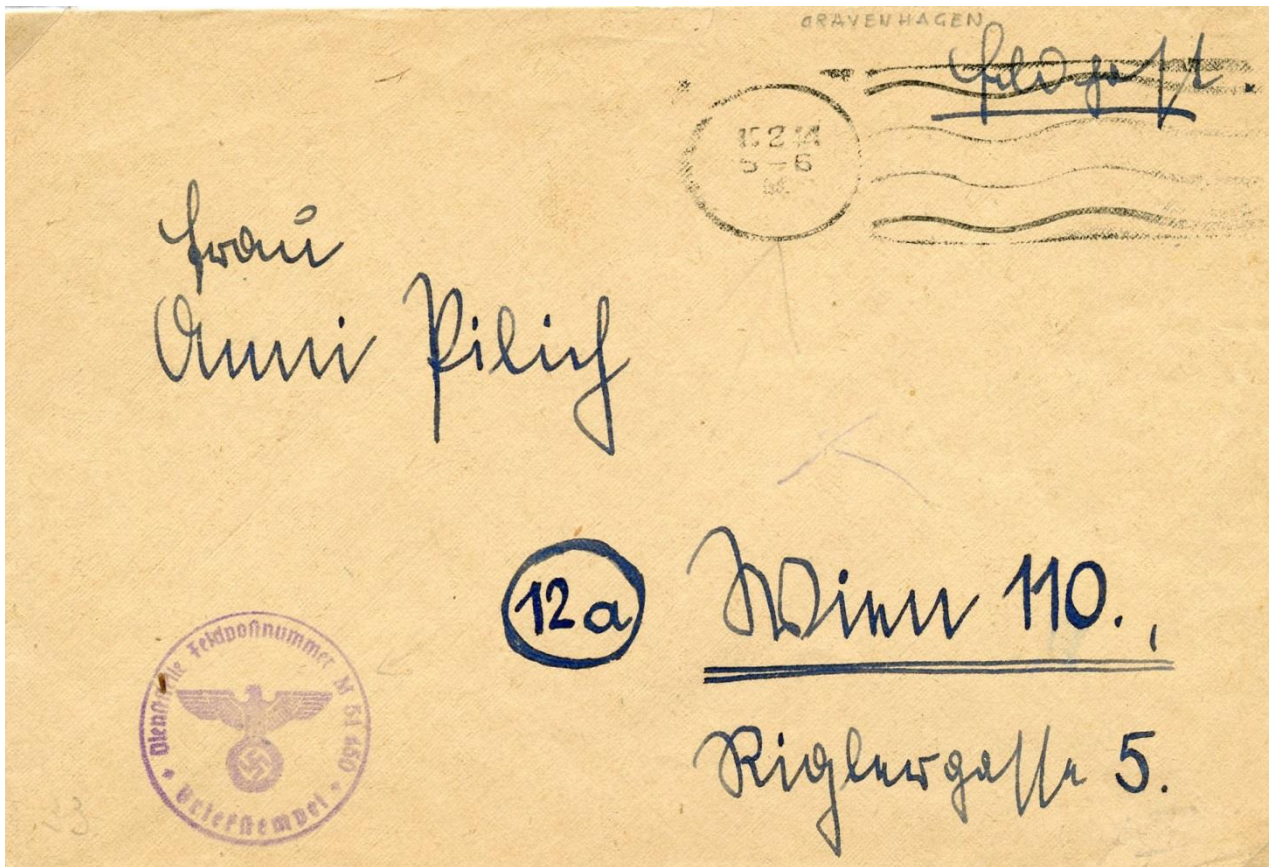


Gunboat K3, sister vessel to K1.



**Kriegsmarine in the Netherlands:** FP Nr 51450

This is attributed to 14 Vorposten-Flottillen-Kommando (14<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Flotilla). It was formed on 1 February 1943 in Rotterdam from seized fishing boats, and operated along the Dutch coast conducting escort duties. In the two years of its existence, the flotilla lost 8 of 20 boats.



A vorpostenboote of  
the Kriegsmarine.



**Kriegsmarine in the Netherlands:**FP Nr M00218

This FP Nr is attributed to II. Landungs-Lehr-Flottille – ie the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Amphibious) Landing Training Flotilla. This was based at Rotterdam (possibly).



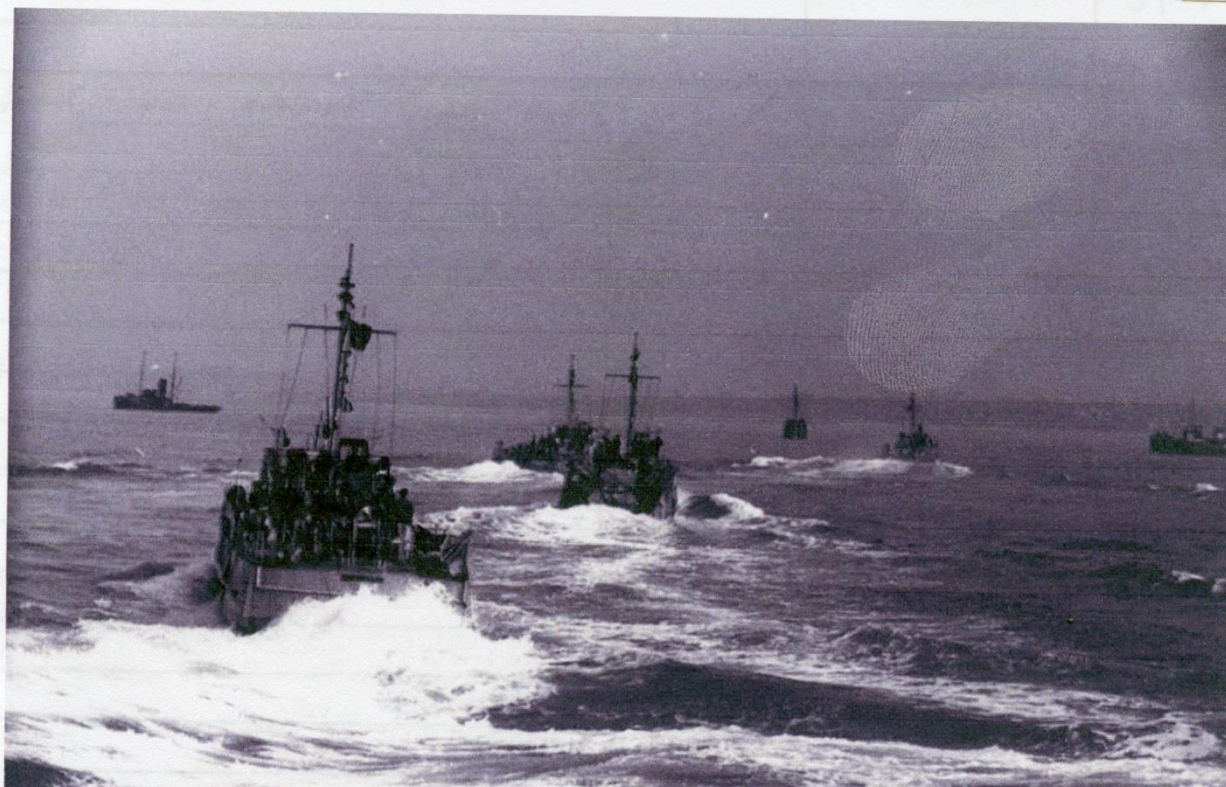
A registered item from the Naval Festungsbaudienststelle (Naval Fortification Office) at Den Helder to a company in Zaandam, about 50kms south of Den Helder.



## Kriegsmarine in the Netherlands: FP No.M50724

Attributed to 9 Räumbootsflottille (9<sup>th</sup> Minesweeping Flotilla). This was formed in Rotterdam in May and June 1942. This item carries the word 'Schiffstaffe' in the cachet, so could have originated on board the depot ship 'Alders'. The flotilla consisted of the following R class boats:

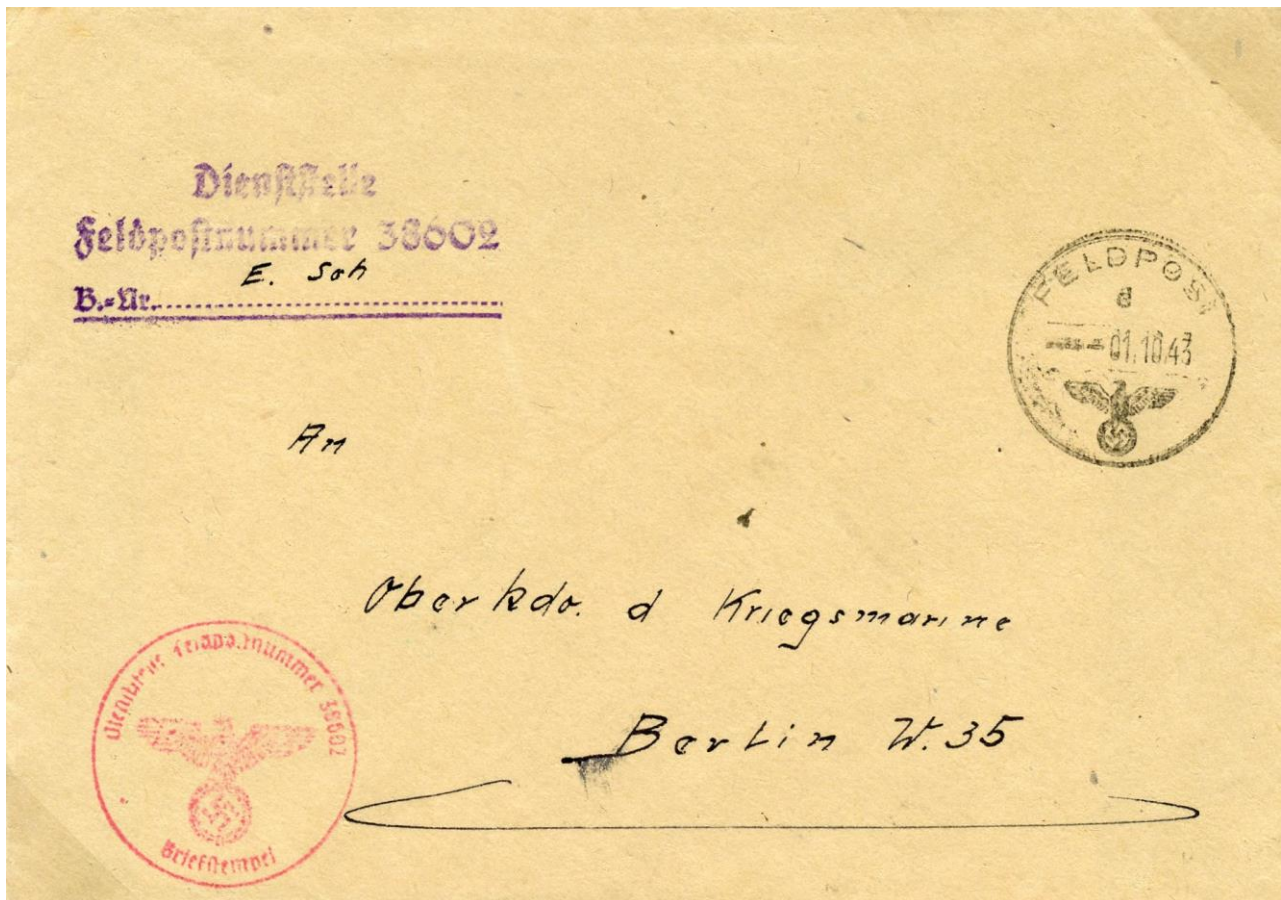
R 85, R 87, R 88, R 103, R 104, R 105, R 107, R 108, R 109, R 110, R 111, R 112, R 131, R 148, R 149, R 247, R 251, R 412, R 413, R 414, R 415, R 416, R 417.



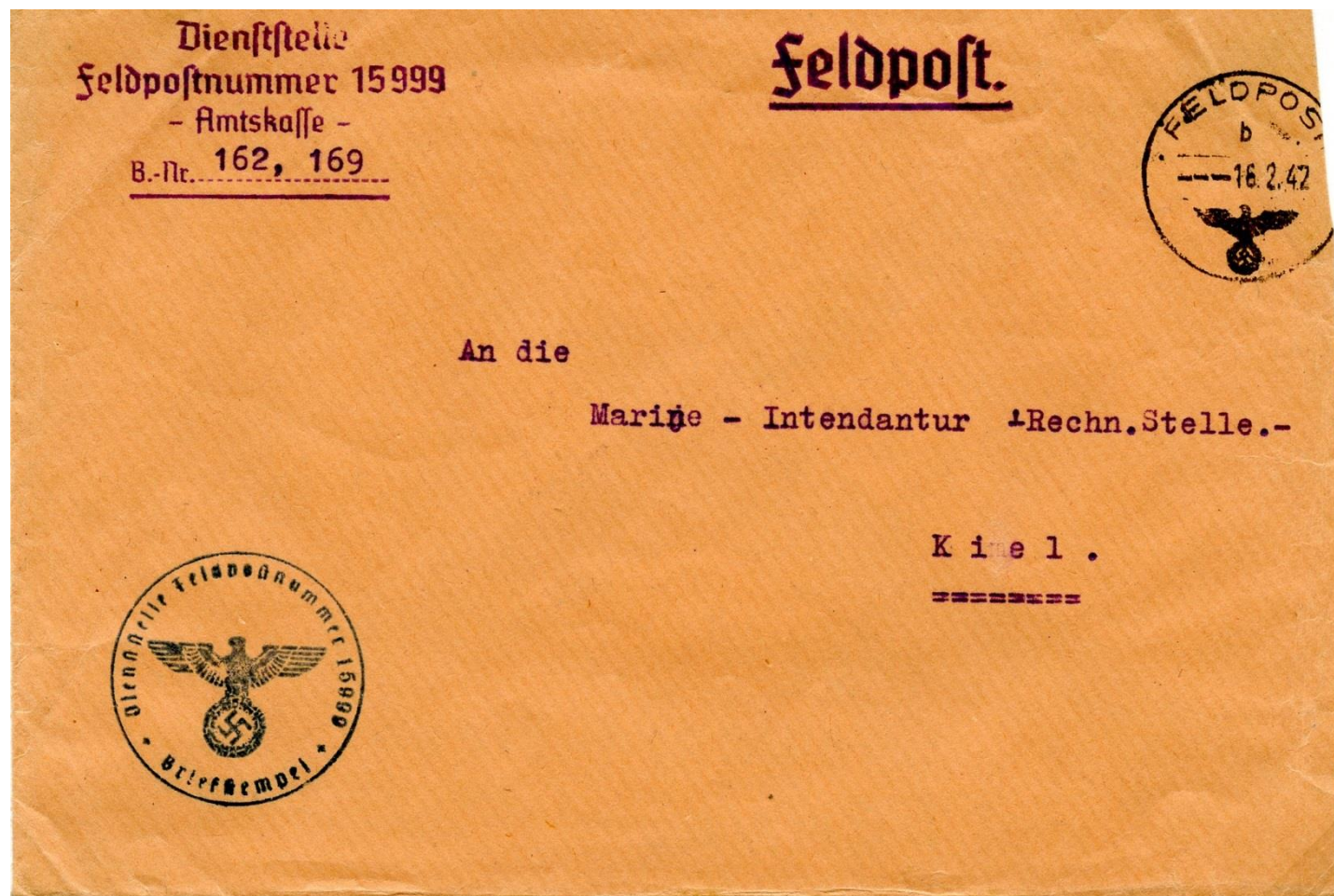


**Kriegsmarine in Crete:** FP Nr 38602

FP Nr 38602 is attributed to the Kriegsmarine base on Crete.





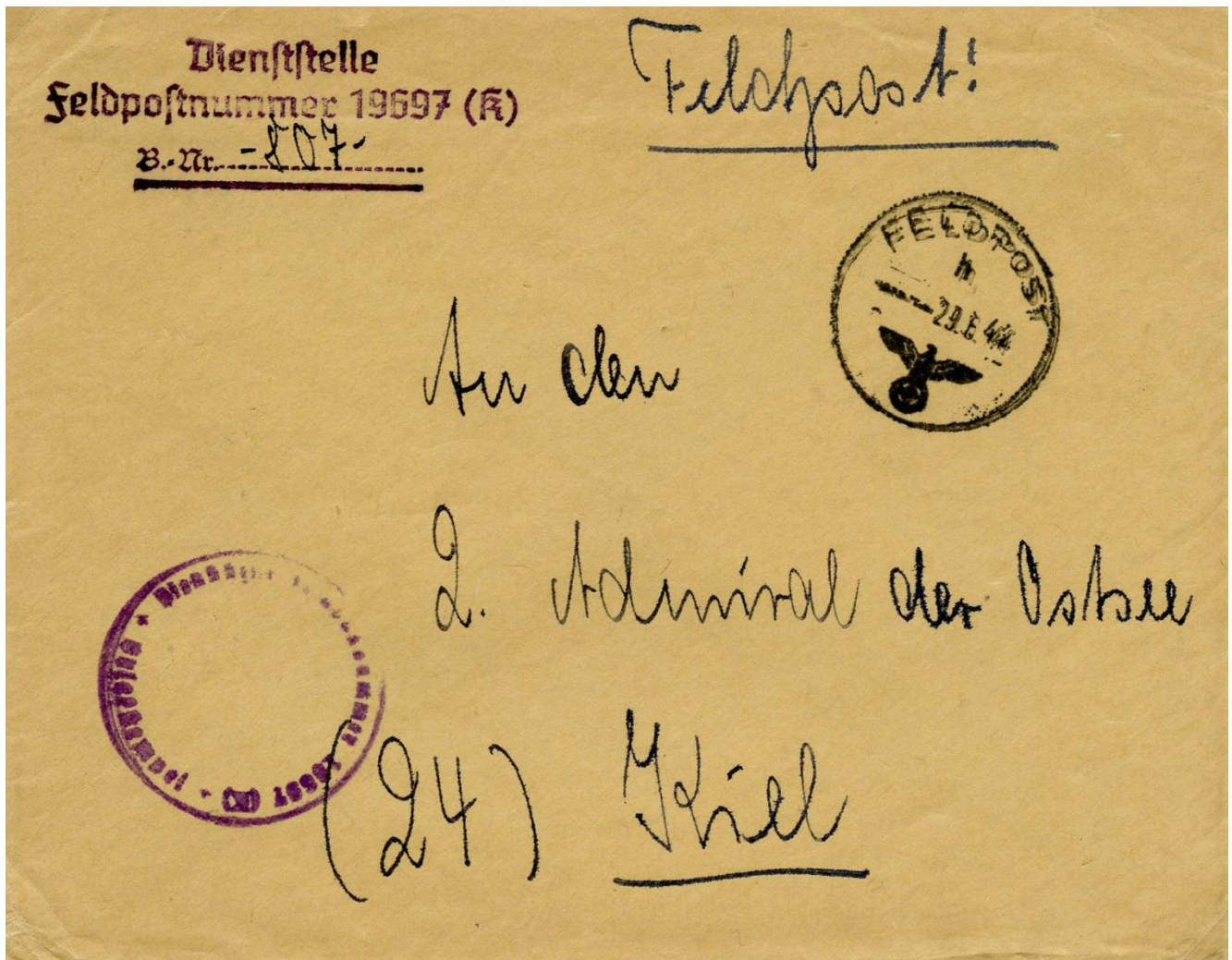


Official German naval mail from the naval garrison on Lemnos (FPNr 15999).



Kriegsmarine in Denmark: FP Nr 19697

This is attributed to the Kommandant der Seeverteidigung Nordjütland und Marine Intendentur-Dienststell Frederikshaven (Literally: Commander of the Maritime Defence North Jutland and Marine Intendant Service, Frederikshaven).





**Kriegsmarine in Denmark:** FP Nr 38050

This is attributed to Marine Befehlshaber Dänemark 6.41 – 2.43 (SNO, or NOIC Denmark).

The return address is Marinekriegsgerichtsrat, FP Nr 38050 (=Naval War Tribunal).

The addressee is Nationalsozialistischen Rechtswahrerbund = National Socialist Legal Confederation





**Kriegsmarine in France:** Naval Group West, Paris.

In August 1940, the Group made its HQ in Paris (Place de la Concorde, in the former French Navy Ministry) and relinquished its earlier responsibility for operations in the North Sea to concentrate on France and Belgium. Subordinate to its first commander, Generaladmiral Alfred Saalwachter, was Admiral, Frankreich (France), who, at the time of this letter, was Admiral Otto Schultze

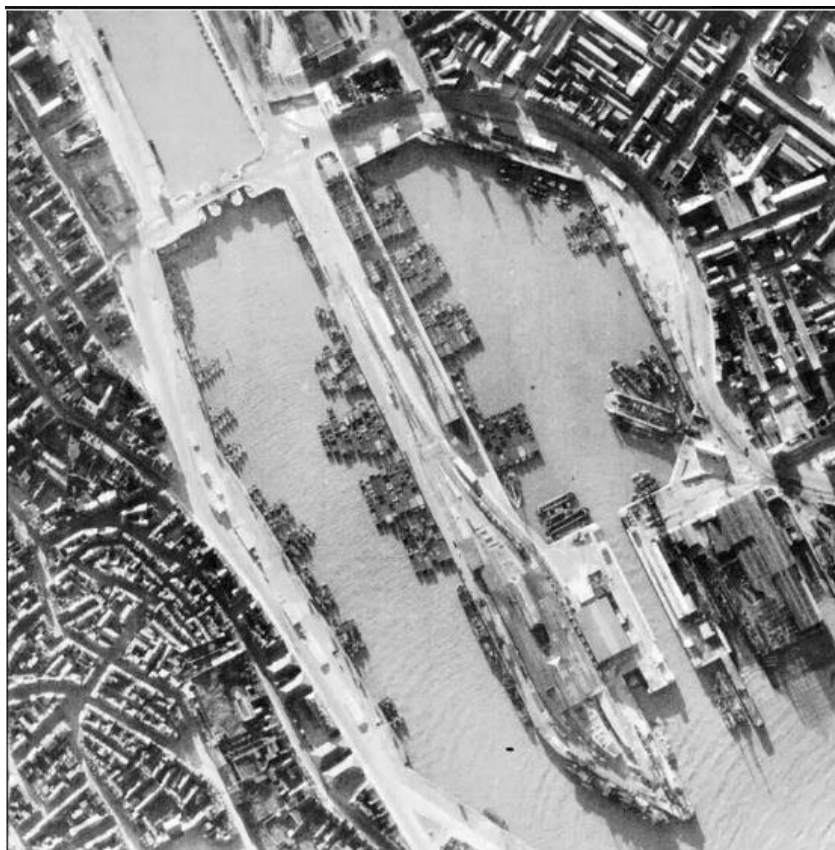
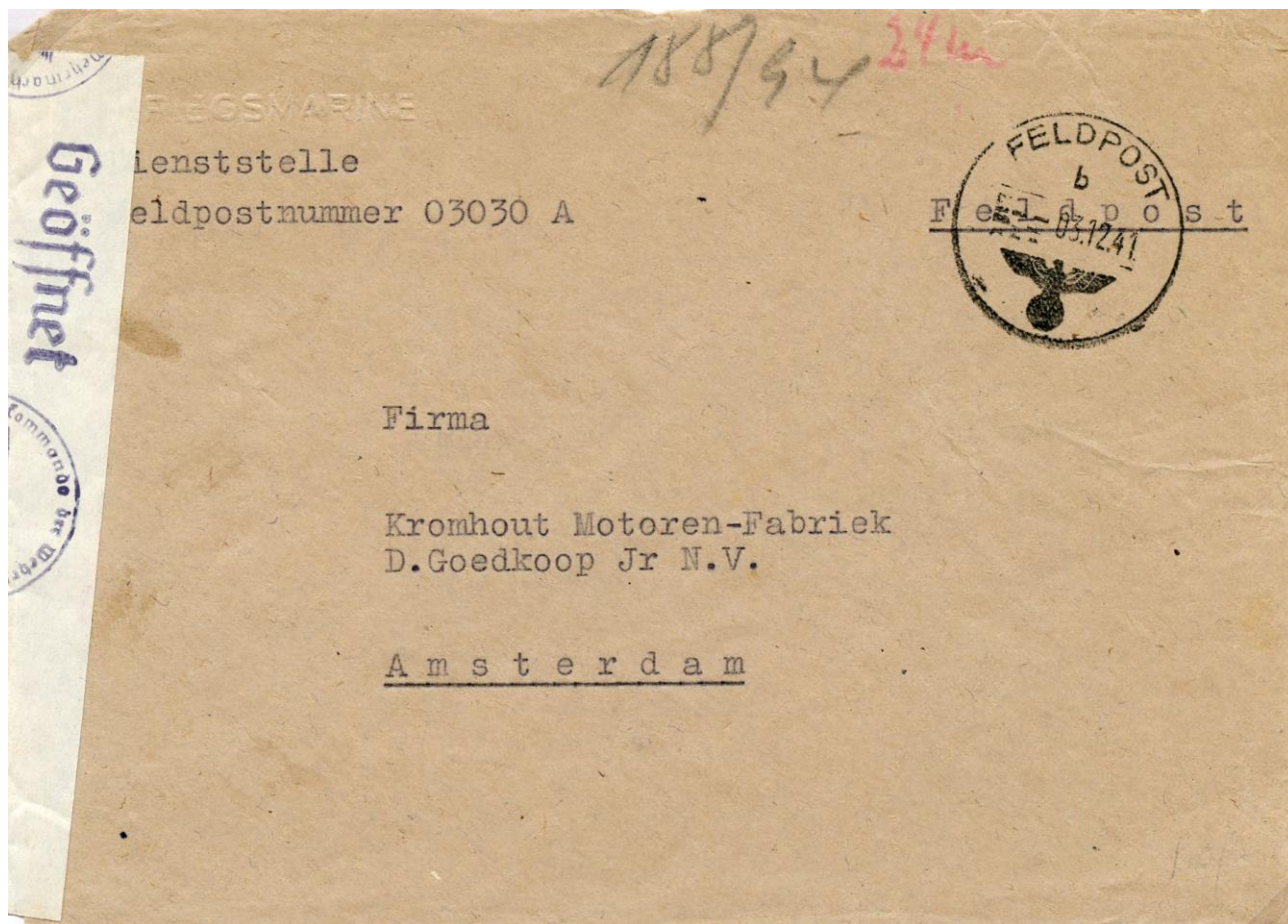


Schultze commanded U63 from 1915-1917. He had retired in 1937, but was re-activated on the outbreak of WW2.



**Kriegsmarine in France:** FP Nr 03030

Port Commander, Boulogne.



A war time aerial view of part of the port of Boulogne, showing what appear to be a number of (invasion ?) barges alongside the quays.



## Kriegsmarine in France: FP Nr 12615

This FP Nr is attributed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Vorpostenflotilla. This was formed in September 1939 with eight fishing boats. It moved to France eventually and was based at Bordeaux and Bayonne. It was disbanded in September 1944.





## The U Boat Base at L'Orient: FP Nr 25522

This is addressed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> U Boat Training 'Command' (Ausbildungsabteilung) at Neustadt, north of Lubeck on the Baltic coast. Perhaps it was a request for another submarine and its crew to replace a recent loss ?



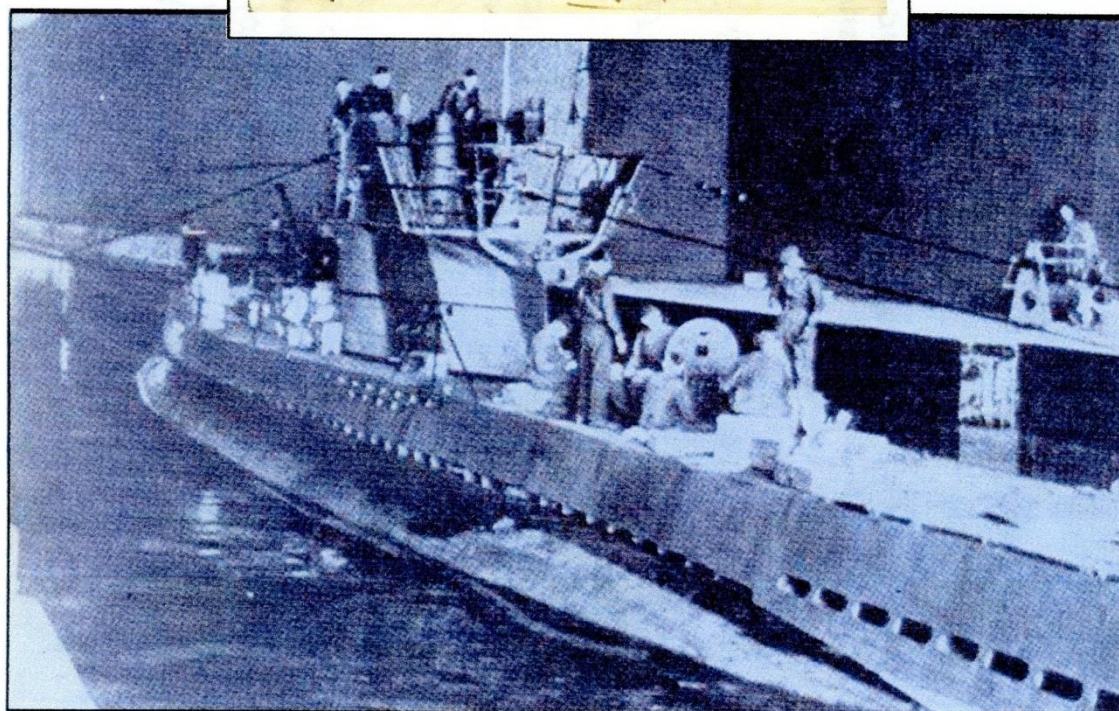


**7<sup>th</sup> U Boat Flotilla: FP Nr 14971**

The content letter is dated 25th July 1940, when the flotilla was still based at Kiel. The return FP Nr is **M01828**, which is associated with U46. If this is correct at this time, then the boat was between patrols, having returned to Kiel from its 6<sup>th</sup>, and most successful patrol (44,129 tons), on July 1<sup>st</sup>.



Freuzopf. Herrn Völkner, Freuzopf. M 01828





## Kriegsmarine in Italy: FP Nr06864

This FP Nr is attributed to 3 Schnellboot Flotilla (equivalent, roughly, to the RN's MTBs). This flotilla was formed in May 1940, and initially operated along the Dutch and Belgian coasts. In 1941 (after June, presumably), the flotilla was moved to the Eastern Baltic, based at Windau (now Ventspils in Latvia). In October 1941, it was sent to the Mediterranean, probably Taranto. After the Italian surrender they retreated to Venice.

